

## The KEY proved a PICKER,

*Scotius & Junius*

**A**DMITTING, Sir, that his Lordship was promoted to the chair by the interest of S—r L——ce D——s, was he to sacrifice to that interest his honour and spirit? Was he to bow abjectly to the mean slaves, to the mercenary hirelings of that *Lord Paramount*? He acknowledged him his enemy, when he could not with honour be any longer his friend. He meant not to overturn *his* interest, when he proffered to him his *own*. He was not active to overturn it, till it overturned itself. *Perfidy* and *guilt*, Sir, if they had been applied to your patron, would have been applied with propriety. Honour and virtue are notoriously the characteristics of his Lordship: Universal approbation has confirmed them, which the pen of a *mercenary hireling* can never efface.

“UNLIMITED Friendship.” When friendship becomes baseness and slavish subjection, it finds a boundary in itself.

“HE put his Lordship’s friendship to the test, by requiring “that Mr Dalrymple should succeed him.” How shameful, how arrogant was the request! Dare you aver, Sir, invidious as you are, That the first Magistrate in the second metropolis of Great Britain should be told, without being consulted, like a valet, who was to succeed him; and that dictated too by the meanest of men, who had, at that time, no voice in the administration? “His Lordship told Sir L—— D——, That he strengthened his interest, by adding new friends to it; yet these friends, his Lordship informed him, were hostile to *his*.”\*—If they were hostile to his friends, they were not hostile to *himself*; and, if he had not interfered, it was impossible that he could have been disappointed.—“His Lordship affected the sovereignty of the Borough.” Would not the government of a state be better under the direction of spirited liberty, than the sway of ignorance and oppression? —“His Lordship threw off his hypocritical attachment.” Did his journey to Ask-Hall prove an hypocritical attachment? Was it not candid; was it not honourable?—“His Lordship, from a  
“perfidious

\* *i. e.* To S— L——ce’s friends.



“ perfidious friend, became an open enemy.” His Lordship was never a perfidious friend ; but, when friendship would degenerate into base subjection, and mean inequality, it is the duty of every honest and upright man, to become an enemy to such friendship. “ His Lordship received the countenance of the Duke of B——.” This is false. The letter of that polite nobleman entirely confutes it.

THOUGH his Lordship was dissatisfied with S—r L——ce’s friends, he did not oppose *him* till after having made an ingenuous offer of the continuance of his attachment, and the *worthy* Baronet refused it. “ When Mr Dalrymple resigned the promise in his favour, to gratify his Lordship’s eagerness to serve Sir L——ce D——s, it was understood that he was to succeed him.” This is an unjust implication.

“ ENGAGED to Sir L—— D——, you had no title to speculate without restriction, and for yourself †. Your interest, independent of his, was a blow to his influence. The scheme you avow, of annihilating his friends, was without his knowledge, destructive of his consequence, and in violation of your engagements. Your offer, of supporting him with *your* friends, if he would desert his *own*, was an insult to his understanding. The party you had formed, the studied concealment of your views, your pretended friendship, your visit at Ask-Hall, your opposition to Mr Dalrymple, and your subsequent rupture with Sir L—— D——, are all parts of a whole. They mutually illustrate one another. They explain a settled project of ambition.”

THIS is so silly, so base, so uncandid, Sir, that you have by it, published yourself to possess the *head* of a *fool*, the *tongue* of a *slanderer*, and the *heart* of a *dissembler*.

“ THE alternative you proposed to yourself is open to the most superficial observation. If your offer had been accepted, you had Sir L—— D—— in fetters, and in servitude. You could meet the advances of another candidate for the representation. You could operate on the hopes of both, and expect impatiently the hour when you would surrender the borough to the highest bidder. If your offer was rejected, you had determined on  
“ immediate

† The KEY is addressed to my Lord Provost.





“ immediate hostilities. The former part of the alternative did  
“ not happen. You embraced the latter; and, when you left  
“ Ask-Hall, it was to act as an enemy.”

YOUR suppositions are erroneous, Sir; but you yourself, who appear so well acquainted with the plans and artifices of treachery, must be a very great proficient in the *laudable* art of chicanery.

LET me make an inversion, Sir, of your last paragraph. *The consequences of his Lordship's conduct* he will recollect with satisfaction and pleasure. The increased acclamations of his *popularity* will deliver them down honourably to posterity. His *airs of importance* will arise from conscious virtue; and he will bear his *political dissolution* with the heart-felt satisfaction, that he suffered it as the reward of the purest and noblest efforts to change *bondage* for *liberty*, and abject *slavery* for *freedom*.

HEAR it with remorse, ye changeling electors! Blush with shame at your mean abjection! Recollect your perfidy with horror! The t——s Pl——r of his country, and his groveling vassal, had hitherto ruled you with unlimited controul.—The spirit of liberty and independence uplifted her arm to break your chains. Ignoble—mercenary slaves! ye renounced her free and untainted proffer, ye disclaimed her friendship; ye rejected her generous efforts with treachery; ye bartered your honour; ye bartered the opinion of your fellow-citizens for a STOLEN reward——stolen from the poor laborious *Hind*, who had earned it with the sweat of his brow——most *cruelly stolen* from the guardians of your country\*, most v——ly stolen from the *treasury* of your state.

JUNIUS, SCOTIUS.

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1776.

\* The A——my in G——y last w——r.

